

Today's News - Wednesday, June 17, 2015

- Three thoughtful tributes to Charles Correa, "the knight in shining armor that Mumbai deserved, but didn't get" + "When he says a construction is ugly, he considers it as much a moral judgment as an aesthetic one" + Why Correa mattered (all well worth reading).
- Takao talks to Tadao re: how he is tackling one of his biggest challenges - cancer, "but he's not letting this slow him down. 'People live as long as they're meant to. So, we might as well make every effort we can, until we die. Just being alive isn't sufficient. You have to enjoy it.'" (we wish him well).
- Arch Record is sold - again.
- Harriss calls for a "structural overhaul" of architectural education "that calls into question not what 'good' architectural education looks like but - what is it good for?"
- More details in the ongoing saga of Gehry's Eisenhower Memorial: some politicos are calling for a "reset" and want to turn off the funding spigot; others argue it would be throwing away \$40 million in taxpayer dollars already spent - meanwhile, the memorial commission is moving forward.
- Betsky at his best re: the "appealing design" of 2WTC by "the current King of Konceptual Ikons," and the "sci-fi and urban transformation in the hyper-reality of BIG's video."
- Merrick marvels at Grimshaw's Fulton Center that "has set a new standard in the quality of human movement" and "can fairly be described as a civil experience."
- Taylor-Hochberg takes us on a serio-comic tour of DS+R's The Broad and its "distinctively dimpled wrapping": "Architectural criticism that begins with 'it looks like [insert Platonic object here]" is suspect at best," but the metaphor she comes up with "is too juicy to dismiss."
- AS+GG tapped once again to design the world's next tallest tower, the Burj 2020 in Dubai.
- Hume hails Toronto's Pan Am Games Athletes' Village, "where a new model of Canadian urbanism is emerging just in time for the 21st century. There's so much to admire here it's hard to know where to start" (it's "a message from an alternate urban universe").
- The fascinating tale of Savannah's emerging Starland arts district, envisioned by two SCAD grads in 1998, that is "attracting art studios, offices, galleries and cafes to what once was a derelict neighborhood."
- Lehrer, Latané, and Jacobs make the case that "drought panic and rebates incentivize too many quick and dirty solutions" for L.A.'s water crisis: tearing up turf and putting down gravel and plastic grass just won't work.
- Heatherwick's Maggie's Centre in Yorkshire will look like a group of giant potted plants.
- Eyeful of the winning (and losing) designs in the competition to design Birmingham, U.K.'s new Centenary Square.
- Keegan explains "what the Wrigley Field renovations got right - and wrong. Kudos are due VOA for several distinct improvements - but it has lost some of the subtle genius that made it a unique part of Chicago's architectural - and urban - history."
- Chaban chats with Marvel père et fils re: their partnership that "comes at an important time for both men."

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Obituary: Remembering Charles Correa, 84, iconic Indian architect who would never design a 'glass building': ...the knight in shining armour that Mumbai deserved, but didn't get...It's one life's ironies that as a young architect, Correa was inspired by something Le Corbusier told him...donated all his drawings, models and records to RIBA. It was a decision he made with a heavy heart. By Deepanjan Pal - Firstpost (India)

Remembering Charles Correa: Part-philosopher, part-urban planner, India's most influential architect created works of art out of brick and mortar: When Correa says a construction is ugly, he considers it as much a moral judgment as an aesthetic one. By Jonathan Allen -- Gautam Bhatia; AG Krishna Menon; Hafeez Contractor [images]- GQ India

He leaves behind an unparalleled legacy: A fan of Charles Correa on why the architect mattered: He belongs to a unique and rare breed of architects who have made great contributions to the architectural vocabulary in India...not only evolved a distinctive style of his own, but has also played a major role in shaping the country's infrastructure... By Navaneeth Aithal-Firstpost (India)

Tadao Ando: Against the Odds: ...one of Japan's most successful architects...a winner of...the Pritzker Prize...has always been up for a challenge...he is tackling some of his biggest obstacles yet. He's had several major surgeries for cancer. But he's not letting this slow him down...He draws inspiration from his fight against illness..."People live as long as they're meant to. So, we might as well make every effort we can, until we die...Just being alive isn't sufficient. You have to enjoy it." By Minoru Takao- NHK World (Japan)

Architectural Record sold for the second time in less than a year: Dodge Data & Analytics includes Architectural Record, Engineering News-Record, Snap, and Sweets News & Products...picked up by BNP Media...A source told AN that there have already been multiple layoffs due to the change.- The Architect's Newspaper

Can we build it? Not on our own! A reformed architectural education must promote collaboration and the value of existing buildings: The change we need will involve a kind of foundations-up, structural overhaul that calls into question not what "good" architectural education looks like but - what is it good for? By Harriet Harriss - BD/Building Design (UK)

House Appropriators Call for 'Reset' on Eisenhower Memorial Plans: Posing the biggest threat yet to Frank Gehry's plans..."It just doesn't seem to make sense to throw away \$40 million in taxpayer dollars that have already been used"...Despite those objections, Gehry's design is moving forward...to present the plans to two of the federal panels that must consent to the project...a chief critic of the design has introduced a bill that would force the commission to launch a new competition...- Roll Call

Two World Trade Center and the Rise of the Metropolis of Tomorrow: ...sci-fi and urban transformation in the hyper-reality of BIG's video...shows the transformation of architectural representation into something more akin to games or advertisements...Luckily, the synthesis of all of this is an appealing design by...the current King of Konceptual Ikons...I am not buying it all, but the argument and its cartoon explanation certainly work well...a form that is simpler and more active than anything we have seen in this scale of skyscraper. By Aaron Betsky -- BIG - Bjarke Ingels Group- Architect Magazine

Fulton Center by Grimshaw: ...design has set a new standard in the quality of human movement...AJ120's Building of the Year...can fairly be described as a civil experience. That civility applies to the centre as an architectural object standing on Broadway... By Jay Merrick - James Carpenter Design Associates [images]- The Architects' Journal (UK)

What makes an artless museum? Architectural criticism that begins with "it looks like [insert Platonic object here]" is suspect at best, but the temptation to gamble with semiotic stickiness is too great after taking a long look at The Broad's distinctively dimpled wrapping, the metaphorical prospect of a giant contraceptive sponge...is too juicy to dismiss...making the museum itself into a spectacle comes naturally to new art institutions...architecture as an art object. By Amelia Taylor-Hochberg -- Diller Scofidio + Renfro [images]- Architect

Burj Khalifa architect to design world's tallest commercial tower in Dubai: Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill Architecture (AS+GG) architects for Burj 2020: WATG has been appointed to deliver the master plan for the Burj 2020 District, which will add 1.3 million square metres...- Emirates Business 24/7

Pan Am Games Athletes' Village is already a champ: New model community will get a workout during the Games and be the city's pride for years to come...a major acceleration of the West Don Lands...where a new model of Canadian urbanism is emerging just in time for the 21st century...There's so much to admire here it's hard to know where to start...a message from an alternate urban universe, one that empowers the individual... By Christopher Hume -- Waterfront Toronto; Infrastructure Ontario [images]- Toronto Star

In Savannah, Where Change Is Slow, an Art District Is Catching On: The Starland District, anchored by a former dairy, is attracting art studios, offices, galleries and cafes to what once was a derelict neighborhood...Originally envisioned in 1998 by two graduates of the Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD)...issues of perceived gentrification...as well as a lack of institutional financing for development, have slowed efforts... -- John Deaderick; Greg Jacobs [images]- New York Times

Op-Ed: Don't gravelscape L.A.: Drought panic and rebates incentivize too many quick and dirty solutions for our water crisis...just tearing up grass and laying on gravel does nothing to keep water on a site...Living landscapes aren't just about aesthetics...we need to protect and add trees and plants that shelter pollinators, hold water, absorb CO₂ and cool us down...Los Angeles would no doubt be better off with less turf. But not if we replace it with gravel or plastic. By Mia Lehrer, Claire Latané, Margot Jacobs -- Mia Lehrer + Associates - Los Angeles Times

Thomas Heatherwick unveils design for plant-covered Maggie's Centre in Yorkshire: ...designed to look like a group of giant pot plants...stands in contrast to the more sterile environment of the adjacent hospital...will work with landscape designer Marie-Louise Agius of Balston Agius to create a garden around the building. [images]- Dezeen

New Centenary Square design winner is revealed: Edinburgh-based Graeme Massie Architects was selected from a shortlist of five because of its 'bold, brave and unique approach'...includes a 'ceiling' of lights which judges say will be 'stunning' when viewed from the Library of Birmingham terrace garden... [images]- Birmingham Mail (UK)

What the Wrigley Field renovations got right - and wrong: ...a reasonable job making these new-fangled features work within Wrigley's historic setting...new bleachers are too big, expensive and faux proletarian...designed with the bluntness of a highway...Kudos are due VOA for several distinct improvements...remains a fine place to watch a ball game, but it has lost some of the subtle genius that made it a unique part of Chicago's architectural - and urban - history. By Edward Keegan -- VOA Associates - Crain's Chicago Business

An Architect Works With a Source of Inspiration: His Father: Jonathan Marvel is practicing architecture in New York City with his father, Thomas Marvel, who in Puerto Rico was one of the most prolific designers of his generation...Their partnership comes at an important time for both men. By Matt Chaban -- Marvel Architects; Marvel & Marchand Architects - New York Times

ANN feature: Keeping Supertalls Grounded, Connected: Q&A with SWA's John Wong, FASLA, FAAR: Tall buildings "are beautiful, sleek structures, truly awe-inspiring, but a lot of a building's long-term economic success is dependent on the integration and beauty at the ground level." [images]- ArchNewsNow.com

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